

Certain Propositions

*Relating to the Scots Plantation of CALEDONIA,
and the National Address for supporting thereof, breisly offered
to Publick View, for removing of Mistakes and Prejudices.*

I. THAT the *Scotch* Planters have entered upon *Caledonia* by Warrant, and under Security of an Act of Parliament, and Letters patent from his Majesty under the Great Seal, and most strictly within the Terms and Conditions thereof; otherwise there had needed no more to Ruine them, than a Declaration of their having Forfeited their Act and Charter.

II. That their Right is confirmed by Invitation from, and League with the original free Natives of that Country, who only can have the primary Natural Right to the Soil, and from whom the *Spaniards* have, contrary to all Justice, Faith and Contract, usurp'd what they now profess in *America*, having obtain'd their Possession by Fraud and Force and Barbarous Cruelty, and by the Popes Donation upon certain Conditions, which they have not in the least observed, as is fully made appear by *Bartholomew de las Casas* Bishop of *Chiapa*, one of there own Missionaries.

III. That the place chosen by the *Scots* was never inhabited by the *Spaniards* or any other *Europeans*, and consequently the *Scots* have the same freedom to take Possession of it, as the *English* to possess any part of the Coast from *New-England* to *Florida*; the *French* in *Canada* and *Mississipp*, the *Portuguez* in *Brasil*, and the *Dutch* in *Surinam*, being all upon the same Continent, which the *Spaniards* from *Columbus's* discovery, do challenge to themselves. And indeed it is evident, That the Crown and Kingdom of *Scotland* hath not a better Title, nor a more just Right to any *Scots* Territory from the *Isle of Gallipray* to the *West of Cadnes* then to *Caledonia* in *America*.

IV. That not only have the *Scots* the sole unquestionable Right to this Important Place, But likewise, albeit they have been hitherto debar'd from all Benefit of free Trading in other Plantations, yet they have very frankly offered both to the *English* and *Dutch*, their Protestant Neighbours, a reasonable Share in all the Advantages of *Caledonia*, which for Natural Wealth and Strength, and conveniency of Trading, is without Dispute, the most considerable in the whole World.

V. That if the *Scots* be forced to abandon their Plantation, the *French* will undoubtedly seize upon it, not only for the sake of Trade, Gain, and Empire; But likewise for Zeal for rooting out the Northern Heresy, both from *America* and *Europe*, which may be easily foreseen, both by the vast occasion of Power and Wealth, that so important a Post will bring to the *French* Greatness, and by the keen Resentment that all the Popish Courts, and particularly the Court of *Rome* have testified against the *Scots* possessing thereof, and by the no less unpolitick than cruel Persecution that, at this day reigns in *France* against the poor Remnant of Protestants, who cannot comply with their Superstition and Idolatry.

VI. That there is such an hopeful appearance of propagating the pure Gospel amongst an Harmless, good Natur'd People in the Neighbourhood of *Caledonia*, who seem well disposed to receive it, as ought to excite Reformed Protestants to contribute thereto with the greatest Vigor; and to strengthen themselves against the Roman Power; especially when Popery prevails so mightily over all *Europe*, and the Papists compass Sea and Land to gain Professors; Nor doth the Remoteness, Danger and Barbarities of *China*, *Japan*, *Tartary*, and all the back parts of the *English* Plantations discourage or faint their Zeal.

VII. That therefore, it is the undoubted Interest and Duty of all Protestants, to support this Colony in the *Scots* hands, who have the only just Right thereto; and in whose Possession, it must certainly prove more beneficial to all other Protestant Kingdoms and States, than any other more wealthy and powerful Kingdom or State would be to be unto the rest, if they did possess it alone. And it must be the unquestionable duty of all true hearted *Scots* Men to endeavour by all just, legal, and orderly ways, the Preservation of their own Colony.

VIII. That whatever has been the Cause of the late Disaster of *Caledonia*, yet most Evident it is, that the Colony cannot now be preserved to *Scotland*,

unless

unless the Force and Effect of the *West-India* Proclamations be taken off, and that
very speedily, since it is undeniably manifest, that the Company under their pre-
sent hard Circumstances, and now sadly redoubled Misfortunes, are not able to sup-
port the same, and without the very speedy Assistance of a Parliament, not only must
to Great and Honourable an Enterprize fall to the Ground, but the remaining Persons,
and the Treasure employed therein must Perish, to the Irreparable Loss and Dis-
honour of the Nation.

IX. That the only proper and effectual Way for Remedy, is (in Relation of the
Dutch-East-India-Company, who having been unsuccessful in their two last Voyages,
were supported by the *States-General*) in all Humble and Dutiful Manner, to Address
the King for the Meeting of the Parliament; which having been already done by the
Company, and his Majesty having been pleased to regret their and the Kingdoms loss,
and to promise that the Parliament shall meet, when the Good of the Nation does
require it; There can be nothing more Natural, than for the Nation themselves to
acquaint his Majesty of the urgent Necessity of the Parliament's speedy Meeting,
upon so weighty and pressing a Juncture, and of so Universal a Concern to the
whole Nation.

X. That the Natural Right of Petitioning, in a Legal and Orderly Way, being
revived and asserted by the *Claim of Right*, the Happy Purchase of the late Glorious
Revolution: And His Majesty, our Great Deliverer under God, having always re-
sisted a just Regard to the forelaid Right of Petitioning, even in that Proclamation
that forbids illegal Methods: However His Majesty may, in some things, have been
misinformed, to the Prejudice of this His Ancient Kingdom; Yet it is never to be
imagined, but that when he understands their true Good from themselves, he will
Graciously grant their just and Necessary Desires, and with a Fatherly Affection
Compassion, and take Care of their Righteous Cause.

XI. That tho it be Disloyal for any Man, to doubt of the Kings granting a Par-
liament, when sought by so considerable a part of the Nation: And to doubt of the
Parliament's supporting *Caledonia*, is unworthy of a Scots Man: Yet if the Question be
ask'd, What is to be done in case of Refusal? The Answer is plain, That first the Na-
tion shall have the Satisfaction of having done their Duty; and next, they shall have
the Melancholly Advantage of knowing, that further Attempts for an *American*
Plantation must at present cease, so as they need not fruitlessly throw away more Men
and Money to be lost in Doubtful Expectations, but must gather up their Shipwreck,
and call Home what remains.

XII. That in a Case of so Universal and Pressing Concern, as Persons of differ-
ent Interests have been so ready to enter into the *Trading Company*, so many persons
none from their Duty in Promoting this Address, because Persons of the same dis-
tinct Interests joyn in it; since the Address itself is National, Loyal and Protestant,
and one of the best Securities to the present Government; and so also to the Design,
in which all doth Center.

XIII. That albeit some ill Minded Persons bestir themselves in blowing about In-
sinnuations, Surmises and Jealousies, to raise Dust and blind Peoples Eyes, yet these
are so weak and groundless, and are convincingly found to be so very idle Stuff,
that they deserve the utmost Contempt, since Persons of all Ranks engaged in the Ad-
dress, do on all Occasions openly disown all Intentions of Disquieting or Prejudging
the Government in Church or State, as now by Law established, and declare their
only Design to be His Majesty's true Honour, and the Good of the Countrey, which
are inseparable, and the Christian Glory of the Church, in the Propagation of the
Gospel by the Protestant Presbyterian Ministers of the Church of Scotland. Besides,
that there is an absolute Impossibility, if Matters be duly pondered, that it should be
otherwise; or that an Address for the Meeting of that Parliament, which effectuated
the late Happy Revolution, and for the Support of *Caledonia*, can have any other
Tendency.

XIV. That the General Assembly, by their Acts, and the Commission, by their
Letter to the Colony, their Mission in Summer last, and their late Recommendation
to Presbyteries, have testified so peculiar a Regard to the *Caledonian Undertaking*, and
so just a Sense of the great Interests of Religion therein, That no Minister of the Gos-
pel, who will not blindly truckle to a Party, or is not misled by the Power of Preju-
dice, can hesitate upon the Necessity, much less upon the Expediency of so Dutiful
and Loyal an Address, when the Countries Good, and the Service of the Nation,
doth so urgently require it.